



Motorized Scooter Survey

Should Motorized Scooters Be Regulated?

Purpose of the Survey:

Hello! I'm Dan Grabauskas, Registrar of Motor Vehicles. We are asking people through this survey if they think *motorized scooters* should be regulated, and if so, to what degree. A growing debate concerning the possible need for the regulation of *motorized scooters* is developing. I am seeking the views of students, parents, teachers, state and local police, state and local officials, and other interested persons in addressing the issue. You can respond to the survey form on the reverse side and mail it back to the RMV or you can download this survey from our website at massrmv.com and mail it to the RMV.

What are Motorized Scooters?

These *motorized scooters* are gasoline or alcohol-fueled or are electrically-powered. The rider stands on a platform (or sits on a small seat) mounted over or between the wheels. The rider controls the direction and speed of the scooter by means of a t-bar type control column. The scooters usually have two or more tires and are equipped with a brake system. Gasoline-powered versions can travel at speeds up to approximately 30 MPH, while battery-powered versions can travel at speeds up to approximately 15 MPH. *Some Motorized Scooters* can be folded for storage and portability. These motorized scooters are not to be confused with 3-wheeled scooters equipped with a seat that are used by individuals with mobility problems or with non-powered 'push scooters'.

Background of the Debate:

My office has been contacted by law enforcement officers and parents who are concerned over the sudden appearance of *motorized scooters* on public ways and sidewalks in the Commonwealth. The primary concern seems to be that these scooters are often being operated by unlicensed teenagers (although adults also ride them). Operators may dart in and out of traffic on busy streets and roadways, and usually do not wear helmets. Motorized scooters are deemed by many to pose a danger to pedestrians when operated on a sidewalk. Although it would appear that many individuals, including both teenagers and adults have been operating these scooters in a responsible manner, nevertheless, there have been calls to regulate them to ensure they are being operated safely and away from traffic and pedestrians.

(Survey on Reverse Side)

Daniel A. Grabauskas, Registrar



THE RESULTS

1. Should the state regulate **motorized scooters** along the lines of a **Moped** (motorized bicycle), e.g., minimum age of 16 1/2 with a Learner's Permit **or** Driver's License, can use all roads but no access to express state highways, operation prohibited where bicycles are not allowed, maximum speed of 25 MPH?
Yes 67% No 31% N/A 2%
2. Should we leave the issue of regulation of **motorized scooters** up to local cities and towns?
Yes 31% No 67% N/A 2%
3. Should **motorized scooters** be prohibited from highways or streets?
Yes 53% No 42% N/A 6%
4. If you do think they should be prohibited from highways and streets, should local authorities be asked to set aside public places (free of vehicular traffic) where motorized scooters can be used? (similar to skateboard parks).
Yes 33% No 52% N/A 16%
5. If you do **not** think they should be prohibited from highways or streets, should they be prohibited from any road where the speed limit exceeds 25 MPH?
Yes 46% No 30% N/A 23%
6. Should the **motorized scooter** operator be required to have a:
(a) Driver's License 19% (b) Learner's Permit 40% (c) Neither 39% N/A 3%
7. If you do **not** think a License or Permit should be required, should there be a minimum legal age for operation of a **motorized scooter**?
Yes 43% No 12% N/A 46%
If Yes, should that age be 12 155 13 122 14 217 15 148 16 542 Other 48%
(Actual Numbers)
8. Should a helmet be required?
Yes 87% No 12% N/A 1%
9. Should we prohibit them from being operated on sidewalks?
Yes 74% No 24% N/A 2%
10. Should we prohibit them from being operated with a passenger on board?
Yes 79% No 20% N/A 1%
11. Should we require lighting and reflectors if operated after dark? Yes 94% No 4% N/A 1%
12. California has a law governing some motorized scooters (battery-powered version). It features: No license required; minimum age of 16; helmet required; top speed of 15 MPH; may only operate on right side of roadway and not on limited access or express state roadways; can use bike lane of roadway when available; can use bike paths unless prohibited by local ordinance; must have lights during darkness; a brake system; must have at least one hand on control bar; must have ignition-cut off switch; for left-turn, operator must stop on right side of road and walk scooter across intersection. Should Massachusetts adopt a similar law with provisions for the gas powered version?
Yes 73% No 23% N/A 4%
13. Are You: (Check One) Under 18 21% Over 18 78% N/A 1%

Thank you for your time and interest in completing this survey. Please mail the completed survey to:

Registry of Motor Vehicles
Motorized Scooter Survey
Registrar's Office
P.O. Box 199100
Boston, MA 02119-9100